

Applicant : Robert E. Johnson  
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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (currently amended) A covered apparatus comprising:  
a body-supporting member defining a seating area;  
a hood operably supported over the seating area for movement between a hiding position where the hood is located over and hides the seating area and an open position where the hood is moved to uncover the seating area; [[and]]  
a framework operably supporting the body-supporting member and the hood;  
a link-and-bias mechanism operably connected to the hood to automatically move the hood toward the open position when a ~~hunter~~ person removes [[his]] their weight from the body-supporting member, and  
a latch on the framework operably connected to the link-and-bias mechanism and to the body-supporting member, the latch being movable between a latched position where the latch secures the body-supporting member in a secured position against a force of the link-and-bias mechanism until the person places a portion of the person's body weight on the body-supporting member, and being configured to automatically move to a released position when the person places the portion of their body weight on the body-supporting member.
2. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein the body-supporting member comprises a seat.
3. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 1, wherein the hood includes a flexible covering that is camouflaged and made of material suited for outdoor use.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in ~~claim 4, including claim 1,~~ including a

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base supporting the framework, the base including radially extending legs configured to stably support the body-supporting member and hood in a freestanding manner.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in ~~claim 4, including claim 1, wherein the link-and-bias mechanism includes~~ a link mechanism connecting the body-supporting member to the hood.

7. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 6, wherein the body-supporting member comprises a seat configured and adapted to support a person's body weight.

8. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 6, wherein the framework includes tubular members defining an internal cavity and wherein the link mechanism includes a movable component located within the cavity of the framework.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in claim 8, wherein the link mechanism includes a cable with a first end extending out of the internal cavity and operably connected to the body-supporting member, and with a second end extending out of the internal cavity and operably connected to the hood.

10. (canceled)

11. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 8, wherein the link mechanism is connected to a rear of seat.

12. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 1, including a spring attached to the hood and biasing the hood toward the uncovered position.

13. (canceled)

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14. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in ~~claim 13, wherein~~ claim 12, wherein the spring comprises an elastic cord.

15. (currently amended) The apparatus defined in ~~claim 13, including~~ claim 12, including a second spring that can be selectively used individually or in combination with the first-mentioned spring.

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cont  
16. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 1, including a base supporting the body-supporting member and hood in a self-supporting upright manner, the base, hood, and body-supporting member being configured to fold into a compact portable package for easy carriage.

17. (original) The apparatus defined in claim 16, wherein the base includes a plurality of horizontally-oriented radially-extending tubes and includes a plurality of elongated rods shaped to telescope into the tubes, the rods each having an outer end configured to stably engage a ground surface when the rods are telescoped into the tubes, and having an inner end with a retainer thereon shaped to retain the rods to the tubes when the rods are telescoped out of the tubes but further permitting the rods to pivot to a vertical position against the base for compact storage.

18. (currently amended) A blind comprising:

a base;

an upright tubular frame supported on the base;

a seat supported on the base and the upright tubular frame;

a hood supported on the upright frame over the seat and that is movable between a hiding position where the hood is located over the seat and an open position where the hood is not located over the seat;

a latch attached to the upright tubular frame proximate the seat and operably connected to the seat for movement between a latched position that holds the hood in the hiding position when a person is not resting on the seat, and for automatic movement to a released position

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when the person is resting on the seat, the latch further being configured to stay in the released position when the person stands up from the seat and until the latch is reset; and

a cable that extends at least in part through the tubular frame and that operably connects the hood to the latch.

19. (original) The blind defined in claim 18, wherein the latch is operably connected to the seat.

20. (original) The blind defined in claim 18, including a biasing spring attached to the hood and biasing the hood toward the open position.

21. (original) The blind defined in claim 18, including a second biasing spring, the first-mentioned spring and the second spring being individually releasably attached so that the first-mentioned and second springs can be used singularly or together to bias the hood open at a selected speed.

22. (currently amended) A blind comprising:

a base including struts;

a ~~Z-shaped~~ frame supported on the base and having a vertical bottom post, a vertical top post, and an offset section connecting the top and bottom posts ~~; one of the top post, the bottom post, and the offset section including;~~

a link-and-bias mechanism on the frame including a releasable latch supported by the frame and movable between a holding position and a released position;

a hood operably connected to and supported for movement on the top post for movement between a hiding position and an open position; and

a seat supported in a balanced position over the vertical bottom post and including a front section pivotaly supported by the struts and a rear section operably supported by the base and connected to the releasable latch, the seat being movable between a lowered position where the link-and-bias mechanism holds the hood in the hiding position and a raised position

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where the hood is released for movement to the open position;

the latch when in the holding position holding the seat in the lowered position, and the latch when in the released position releasing the seat for movement from the lowered position, but the seat being configured and arranged to hold the hood in the hiding position when the hunter is resting on the seat even when the latch is in the released position.

23-27. (canceled)

28. (new) A covered apparatus comprising:

a seat defining a seating area and movable between a first position and a second position;

a hood operably supported over the seating area for movement between a hiding position where the hood is located over and hides the seating area and an open position where the hood is moved to uncover the seating area; and

a link-and-bias mechanism operably connecting the seat to the hood so that the first position of the seat corresponds to the hiding position of the hood, and so that the second position of the seat corresponds to the open position of the hood, the link-and-bias mechanism providing a biasing force to automatically move the hood toward the open position when a hunter removes his weight from the seat; and

a releasable latch configured to secure the seat in the first position against the biasing force of the link-and-bias mechanism even when the hunter is not placing a portion of the person's body weight on the seat.